



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN
DELTA CONSERVANCY

3500 Industrial Blvd.
West Sacramento, CA 95691
<http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov>

Consideration of Delta Roundtable Concept

Requested Action: Provide guidance and direction to staff regarding Delta Roundtable concept; direct staff to move forward in securing funding for the Delta Roundtable event.

Summary: This staff report presents a conceptual schedule for a Delta Roundtable that would present different perspectives regarding innovation and implementation of various Delta plans.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board approve the conceptual focus of the Delta Roundtable event—that is, focused ways, methods, or how the Delta Conservancy could proceed as the primary state agency carrying out ecosystem restoration in the Delta—and direct the staff to proceed in securing the proposed speakers and funding for the event.

Proposed Focus and Conceptual Structure of the Delta Roundtable

The focus of the proposed Delta Roundtable would be on the Conservancy's role as a leader in collaboration, cooperation, and communication to influence change in the Delta and implement the strategies outlined in the various plans listed above consistent with its co-equal responsibilities. Staff reviewed existing event calendars of other state agencies and organizations and determined that mid-October to the first week of November would be an optimal time for the roundtable because (1) drafts of the plans will have been in public circulation and (2) no other Delta-related event is scheduled during that time.

The structure of the Delta Roundtable is a one-day event featuring a key note speaker, panel discussions, and a lunch with luncheon speaker. In developing the conceptual structure of the roundtable, staff wanted to emphasize new and innovative perspectives that can assist in achieving the Conservancy's co-equal responsibilities.

The following is a conceptual, annotated schedule of the Delta Roundtable.

Note: all potential speakers or panelists are tentative as none have been contacted regarding interest or schedule availability; their names are included primarily to illustrate

the caliber and expertise the Conservancy would like to engage for this event. Times listed are approximations.

Scheduled Item	Comments
Registration (45 minutes)	Cost estimates include providing continental breakfast, coffee, and tea service throughout the morning, starting with the registration time.
Welcome Opening Remarks (10 min)	Suggested: Conservancy Chair (election in June 2011) or Campbell Ingram, Conservancy executive officer
Keynote Speaker(s) (60 minutes with Q&A)	<p>Suggested: William Eggers or John O’Leary, authors of <i>If We can Put A Man On The Moon: Getting Big Things Done In Government</i>.</p> <p>The authors list six musts for successful government initiatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Must start with a good idea2. Must have an implementable design (policy is considered a design element)3. Must win approval4. Must have competent implementation5. Must generate desired results6. Must be subjected to re-evaluation overtime regarding what is being done and how it is being done. <p>The authors also list seven traps that can derail initiatives.</p>
Panel I: (60 minutes with Q&A)	<p>Highlight the innovations that are happening on the local level and how the Conservancy can assist with future innovations.</p> <p>Suggested: Delta Counties Council representatives; NGOs</p>
Lunch (60 minutes; speaker 20 minutes, no Q&A)	Suggested: John Laird, secretary for California Natural Resources Agency
Panel II: (60 minutes with Q&A)	<p>Highlight how the Conservancy can help promote innovative ideas including the challenging concept that the Delta is not a problem to be solved, but a place where there are conditions that can be managed.</p> <p>Suggested: Jeff Conklin, author of <i>Dialogue Mapping: Creating Shared Understanding of Wicked Problems</i>; Dr. Richard Norgaard, UC Berkeley and Delta Independent Science Board member; Ian I. Mitroff, author of <i>Dirty Rotten Strategies: How We Trick Ourselves</i></p>

and Others into Solving the Wrong Problems Precisely.

Panel III: (60 minutes with Q&A)	Invite Senator Diane Feinstein and Governor Jerry Brown Jr. to discuss their vision for the Delta's future
Optional after roundtable event	Reception and art show that features Delta inspired artwork, photography, wine, and food products

Fiscal

Cost estimates for 300 people in a hotel facility, with continental breakfast, beverages, plated lunch, and after-conference reception is approximately \$30,000. Web casting would cost an additional \$6,000. Depending upon which speakers are selected, fees could range from \$2,000 to \$5,000 per person.

There is no money allocated for this event. Staff has identified grant funding for which the Conservancy may apply to fund the event. Securing sponsorships and charging an event fee are also ways to pay for the event.

Background

In his January 3, 2011, inaugural speech, Governor Jerry Brown Jr. said that “what we face together as Californians are not so much problems but rather conditions [...] a problem can be solved or forgotten but a condition always remains. It remains to elicit the best from each of us and show us how we depend on one another and how we have to work together.”

This statement inspired the Delta Conservancy staff to envision a Delta Roundtable to facilitate a change in how people talked about the Delta, that the Delta is not a problem to be solved, but has conditions that need to be managed for the near-term and long-term benefit of its residents and the state as a whole. The concept for the roundtable is to approach the conditions in the Delta from different perspectives—perspectives that have not dominated conversations about the Delta. New perspectives, innovation, implementation, and partnerships with stakeholders—especially local and regional governments—are essential elements for Conservancy initiatives.

On February 23, 2011, the Conservancy Board adopted the *Interim Strategic Plan* for the Conservancy, which stated the organization's vision and mission centered on its co-equal responsibilities as the primary state agency to implement ecosystem restoration in the Delta in collaboration and cooperation with local governments and interested parties and as leading efforts that advance both environmental protection and the economic well-being of Delta residents in a complementary manner.

The *Interim Strategic Plan* also listed several guiding principles for key objectives, program implementation, and agency operations. Permeating these principles is a dedication to leadership in collaboration, coordination, and communication along with a dedication to innovation and willingness to adapt to changing circumstances.

Also on February 23, 2011, the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) released its latest report regarding water in California, *Managing California's Water: From Conflict to Reconciliation*. In Chapter 10, "A Way Forward," PPIC highlights cooperative approaches between state and federal governments and local governments. In their proposal, state and federal governments set standards for such things as water quality, flood risk, and watershed integration and the local or regional governments are free to create innovative ways to meet those standards. The PPIC report was intended to influence completion of other Delta planning efforts, and may do so.

By January 1, 2012, three major planning efforts will be completed that will affect the Delta and Suisun Marsh—the Delta Plan, the Suisun Marsh Plan, and the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan. The Delta Conservancy's strategic plan is required to be consistent with those three reports, as well as the Suisun Marsh Protection Act of 1977 and the Delta Protection Commission's Resource Management Plan. The Conservancy expects to implement or assist in implementing many of the projects identified in these reports as part of meeting its co-equal responsibilities.

Other plans will also affect the Delta, such as the Delta Protection Commission's Economic Sustainability Plan and the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan, and the Conservancy's role will be important in implementing strategies or ideas from these plans as well.

Contact

Nancy Ullrey, Program Lead
Delta Conservancy

916-375-2087